

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 103404

62

ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-02 PCH-02 /012 R

66605

DRAFTED BY: EA/ANP:LJMOSE

APPROVED BY: EA/ANP:LJMOSE

PM/ISO:COL. FLEMING (SUBS)

----- 106848

R 211350Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103404

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 103404 SENT ACTION LONDON

INFO DOD, MAY 17TH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MILI, UK, GN, EQ

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF US PERSONNEL ON CANTON
ISLAND

REF: LONDON 3383

1. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM FCO THAT US AIR FORCE HAS INVESTIGATED REPORTS OF ALLEGED IMPROPER ACTIVITIES BY US PERSONNEL ON CANTON ISLAND AND HAS FOUND NO BASIS FOR SUCH ALLEGATIONS (DETAILS BELOW). ALTHOUGH WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO INVESTIGATE ANY ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED FROM HMG, IF ANY SUCH ALLEGATIONS SHOULD ARISE IN FUTURE WE WOULD HOPE THAT FCO WOULD NOT GIVE ANY CREDENCE TO SUCH HEARSAY EVIDENCE FROM US EMPLOYEE UNTIL AFTER CHECKING WITH US AUTHORITIES. FYI. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED OVER THIS FURTHER INDICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 103404

THAT THE GOVERNOR OF THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS IS

CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN A PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP TO THE PHOENIX ISLANDS, WHICH WE CONSIDER ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO THE GEIC. END FYI.

2. WE NOTE FCO STATEMENT THAT GOVERNOR WAS REPORTING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF ELLICE ISLANDS WHO LEARNED OF ALLEGATIONS DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FLOYD WISE, AT THAT TIME EMPLOYED AS POST MASTER AT CANTON. FLOYD WISE WAS DISCHARGED ON MARCH 5, 1974 BY

CONTRACTOR AT CANTON FOR AN INTERNAL COMPANY CAUSE UNRELATED TO THIS MATTER. HE WAS ON VACATION OCT 30 TO NOV 15 1973 AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY STATED HE HAD TRAVELED TO SAMOA, FIJI AND OTHER ISLANDS AND TOLD OF A CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR OF GEIC IN WHICH HE TOLD HIM ABOUT "GRAVE ROBBING". WISE REPORTEDLY TALKED OF SKULLS BEING MAILED HOME STATING HE PERSONALLY KNEW OF SEVERAL CASES BUT WHEN PRESSED FOR SPECIFICS REFUSED TO GIVE ANY, WHICH LED TO THE CONCLUSION (SUPPORTED BY RECENT INVESTIGATION) THAT THE STORY WAS BASELESS.

3. AFTER CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION OF MATTER, CANTON ISLAND COMMANDER HAS REPORTED THERE IS ONLY ONE KNOWN GRAVE SITE ON CANTON ISLAND, AN UNBOUNDED AREA WITH APPROXIMATELY 20 POSSIBLY RECOGNIZABLE GRAVES, ONLY ONE OF WHICH BEARS MARKINGS, THAT OF INFANT WHO DIED IN 1960. THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF DISTURBANCE OF THESE GRAVES, NOR HAS THERE EVER BEEN ANY EVIDENCE FOUND OF BURIALS OF FORMER INHABITANTS OF OTHER ISLANDS HAVING BEEN DISTURBED.

4. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED NO EVIDENCE OF ANY DESTRUCTION OF REMAINING BUILDINGS OR THEIR DISTRIBUTION AS FIREWOOD. PART OF THE FACILITY ON CANTON LEFT FROM PAA PERIOD IS REGARDED LOCALLY AS AN INTERESTING GHOST TOWN AND ALL PERSONS REPORTED AWARE OF PROHIBITION AGAINST LITTERING OR DAMAGE THERE. AIR FORCE KNOWS OF NO ACTIVITY OTHER THAN AGE, WEATHER OR TERMITES WHICH HAVE DISTURBED BUILDINGS ON THE ISLAND DURING AIR FORCE TENURE. THE BUILDINGS IN OLD SECTION ARE UNSAFE AND DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE RAZED BUT NO SUCH ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN. AIR FORCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 103404

AT PRESENT IS USING EXISTING BUILDINGS IN CANTONMENT AREA, MOST OF WHICH HAVE BEEN REHABBED.

5. WHILE IT IS COMMON PRACTICE FOR PEOPLE TRAVELING BETWEEN CANTON AND HAWAII OR SAMOA TO TAKE FROZEN FISH WITH THEM IN ACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE, THE FISH ARE SMALL SPORT CATCHES AND THERE IS NO COMMERCIAL FISHING OF ANY KIND OR ANYTHING WHICH RESEMBLES SUCH OPERATION CONDUCTED

TED ON CANTON ISLAND OR TO AIR FORCE KNOWLEDGE ELSEWHERE
WITH ANY CONNECTION TO AIR FORCE OPERATIONS ON CANTON
ISLAND. RUSH
B

UNQUOTE RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SUVA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GN, EQ
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE103404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/ANP:LJMOSER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740529/aaaaayyp.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 LONDON 3383
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF US PERSONNEL ON CANTON ISLAND
TAGS: MILI, UK
To: WELLINGTON CINCPAC HONOLULU SUVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005